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A  
MEMOIR

OF

JOHN LOWELL, JR.

BY

EDWARD EVERETT.

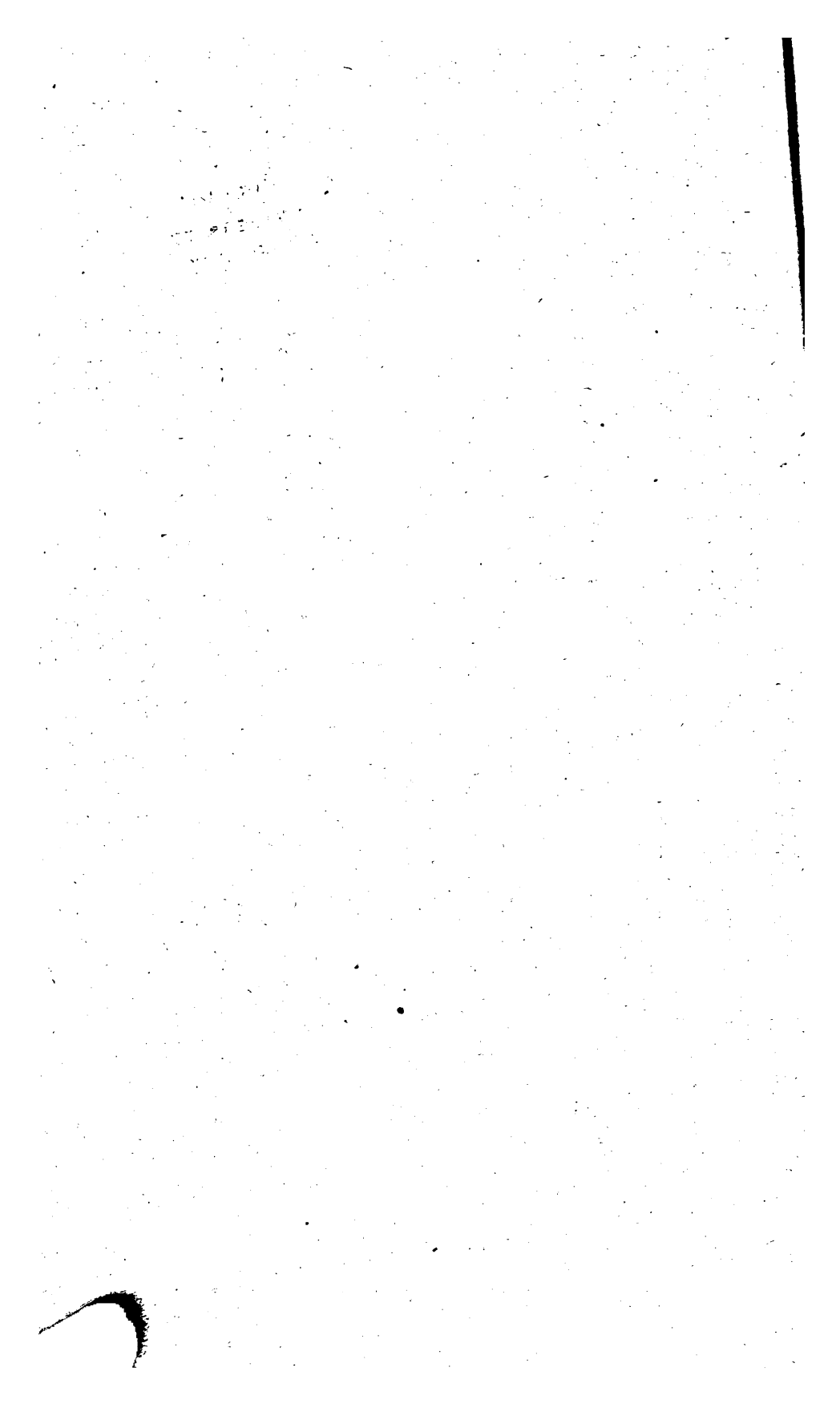
DELIVERED AT THE

Odeon, in Boston, Dec. 31, 1839,

AS THE INTRODUCTION TO THE LECTURES ON MR. LOWELL'S FOUNDATION.

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REPRINTED, BOSTON, 31 DECEMBER, 1879.





A  
M E M O I R  
OF  
MR. JOHN LOWELL, JUN.  
DELIVERED AS THE  
I N T R O D U C T I O N  
TO THE  
LECTURES ON HIS FOUNDATION,  
IN THE  
ODEON, 31st DECEMBER, 1839;  
REPEATED IN THE  
MARLBOROUGH CHAPEL, 2d JANUARY, 1840.

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By EDWARD EVERETT.

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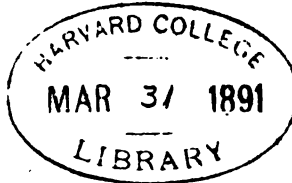
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# MEMOIR

OF

MR. JOHN LOWELL, JUN.

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THE occasion of our meeting, at this time, is of a character not less unusual than interesting. By the munificence of the late Mr. John Lowell, jun., a testamentary provision was made for the establishment of regular courses of public lectures, upon the most important branches of natural and moral science, to be annually delivered in the city of Boston. The sum generously set apart by him for this purpose, and amounting nearly to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, is, with the exception of the bequest of the late Mr. Girard of Philadelphia, the largest, if I mistake not, which has ever been appropriated in this country, by a private individual, for the endowment of any literary institution. The idea of a foundation of this kind, on which, unconnected with any place of education, provision is made, in the midst of a large commercial population, for annual courses of instruction by public lectures, to be delivered gratuitously to all who choose to attend them, as far as it is practicable

within our largest halls, is, I believe, original with Mr. Lowell. I am not aware that, among all the munificent establishments of Europe, there is any thing of this description upon a large scale; and I cannot but regard it as a conception eminently adapted to the character and wants of our community, and promising to be as beneficial as it is original and generous.

The form of instruction by public lectures has greatly prevailed of late years, and obtained a high degree of favor in this and other parts of the United States. It has been ascertained, that twenty-six courses of lectures were delivered in Boston during the last season, not including those which consisted of less than eight lectures;—many of them by lecturers amply qualified to afford instruction and rational entertainment to an intelligent audience. These lectures, it is calculated, were attended, in the aggregate, by about thirteen thousand five hundred persons, at an expense of less than twelve thousand dollars. This is, probably, a greater number of lectures than was ever delivered in any previous year; but the number of courses has been steadily increasing, from the time of their first commencement, on the present footing, about twenty years ago.\* It is not easy to conceive of any plan, by which provision could be made for

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\* Courses of botanical lectures were delivered in Boston by Professors Peck and Bigelow in the year 1813, and of chemical lectures by Dr. Gorham, about the same time. The statement of the number of lectures in 1839, is derived from the last annual report of the Secretary of the Board of Education, p. 74.

the innocent and profitable employment of a part of the leisure time of so large a portion of the community, at so small an expense.

These facts sufficiently show the vast importance, as well as the popularity, of this form of public instruction, and they naturally lead to the question, whether it does not admit of improvement in respect to the character of the lectures, and the basis on which they are delivered. In answer to this inquiry, it readily suggests itself, that, notwithstanding the great and unquestioned benefit which must accrue to the community, from the delivery of so large a number of lectures on scientific and literary subjects to voluntary audiences of both sexes, there are two points, in which the system is evidently defective. In the first place, the means of the institutions, under whose auspices most of the public lectures are delivered, are inadequate to hold out a liberal and certain reward to men of talent and learning, for the preparation of well-digested and systematic courses. The compensation is necessarily limited to a moderate fee, paid from the proceeds of the subscriptions to the courses. A necessary consequence is, that the greater part of the lectures are miscellaneous essays, delivered by different persons, without reference to each other. These essays are often highly creditable to their authors as literary efforts; and in the aggregate, no doubt, they are the vehicle of a great amount of useful knowledge. But it cannot be denied that the tendency of lectures, prepared

under these circumstances, is to the discussion of popular generalities, for the production of immediate effect ; and that a succession of such lectures during a season can never be expected to form a connected series, upon any branch of useful knowledge. A few instances of continuous courses, delivered in exception to the foregoing remarks, will not, I presume, be considered as inconsistent with their substantial accuracy.

In another respect the system obviously admits improvement. Although the length of time for which these lectures have been delivered among us, with increasing public favor, is matter of just surprise, in the absence of all established funds for their support ; yet there is just ground for apprehension, that the system may not prove permanent without further provision to sustain it. Whatever relies for its support on retaining the public favor, without a liberal compensation for the performance of labor, and without the means of withstanding the caprices of fashion and the changes of popular taste, is, of course, in some danger of declining, when the attraction of novelty is over, and the zeal of a first enterprise is exhausted. Even if there were no just ground to fear an entire discontinuance of the public lectures, it is obvious that the present system contains no principle for such a steady improvement in the character of the instruction they furnish, as is necessary to make them a very efficient instrument of raising the literary and scientific character of the community.

For each of these evils an ample remedy is found in the provisions of Mr. Lowell's bequest. It holds out the assurance of a liberal reward for the regular delivery of systematic courses of lectures. By the positive regulations of the founder, these courses will extend to some of the most important branches of moral, intellectual, and physical science; while the trustee is enabled, in the exercise of the liberal discretion reposed in him, to make provision for any lectures, which, in his judgment, may be most conducive to the public improvement. The compensation, which is provided by the bequest, is sufficient to reward the lecturers for the elaborate and conscientious preparation of their courses, and consequently to command the highest talent and attainment engaged in the communication of knowledge in this country; and this, not for the present season or the present generation, but as long as it is possible for human wisdom and human laws to give permanence to any of the purposes of man, for all coming time.

We may therefore consider it as certain, that all who are disposed, in this community, (within the limitation, of course, of the capacity of our largest halls to accommodate an audience,) to employ a portion of their leisure time in the improvement of their minds in this way, will henceforward enjoy the fullest advantage of regular courses of public lectures, delivered without expense to those who hear them, by persons selected for their ability to impart instruction, and amply rewarded for the

labor of faithful preparation. While the public are reaping this advantage, the permanent funds provided by the founder's bequest will constitute a very important addition to the other existing inducements to the pursuit of a studious life ; and may in that way be expected gradually to exert a sensible influence, in elevating the scientific and literary character of the country.

It may also be observed, that, so far from preventing the delivery of other courses of lectures on the plan hitherto pursued, this foundation may be expected to extend its beneficial influence to them. It is physically impossible, that much more than a tenth part of the whole number of those estimated to have attended the lectures of the last season, should be accommodated in any one hall ; and a single repetition is all that can be expected of any lecture on the Lowell foundation. A very great demand for other courses will therefore continue to exist ; and the Lowell Institute, by causing the preparation and delivery of a steady succession of lectures, capable of being repeated before other audiences, will facilitate the supply of this demand. It will no doubt become easier than it has heretofore been, for other institutions, with the command of limited means, to procure for their audiences the advantage of systematic courses.

Such is the general character, briefly sketched, of Mr. Lowell's foundation. The first course of lectures is now about to commence, on the subject of Geology, to be delivered by a gentleman,



(Professor Silliman of Yale College,) whose reputation is too well established in this department of science, both in Europe and America, and is too well known to the citizens of Boston, to need an attestation on my part. It would be arrogant in me to speak further of his qualifications, as a lecturer on this foundation. The great crowd assembled this evening, consisting as it does of a moiety only of those who have received tickets of admission to the course, sufficiently evinces the desire which is felt by the citizens of Boston again to enjoy the advantage of his instructions; while it affords a new proof, if further proof were wanting, that our liberal founder did not mistake the disposition of the community to avail themselves of the benefits of an institution of this character.

As an introduction to this first course of lectures before the Lowell Institute, I cannot but think it will be deemed reasonable and just, by this respectable audience, to devote a single hour to the commemoration of the munificent founder. As he thought proper to restrict his bequest to objects which he deemed of direct public utility, forbidding the expenditure of any part of the fund in buildings and fixtures, which, in other foundations, that may be compared to this, usually serve as sensible monuments to their founders, and limiting its application to purposes at once the least ostentatious and the best calculated to act immediately on the mind of the community,—it seems doubly reasonable

that we should devote at least one evening to a notice of his brief and somewhat eventful life. I have yielded cheerfully to the request of the highly respected trustee of Mr. Lowell's foundation,\* — the kinsman and friend to whom he confided the sole administration of the largest and most important bequest ever made in this city, — that I would undertake the honorable task of paying this tribute of gratitude to the memory of our deceased fellow-citizen and benefactor. I can only regret that, amidst the engagements devolving upon me at this season of the year, I have wanted leisure to prepare myself in a manner more worthy of the subject, and the attention of this large and respected assembly.

Mr. John Lowell, jun., bore an honored name among us. Not to speak of the titles of the living to public respect and gratitude,† I may be pardoned for dwelling, for a few moments, on the characters of the departed. He was the grandson of the late Judge Lowell, whose father, the Rev. John Lowell, was the first minister of Newburyport. The memory of Judge Lowell, I am confident, is respectfully cherished by many persons whom I have now the honor to address. He was among those who enjoyed the public trust and confidence in the times which tried men's souls, and bore his part in the greatest work recorded in the annals of constitutional liberty, — the American revolution. He

\* John Amory Lowell, Esq.

† See Note at the end.

was graduated at Harvard College in 1760. He studied the law under Oxenbridge Thacher, and was admitted to practise in 1762. This was the year following that, in which his professional master was associated with James Otis, in arguing the great cause on Writs of Assistance. Educated in this school, it is unnecessary to state what were his principles on the subject of the momentous controversy which had so long been ripening toward a crisis. He was elected, in 1776, the representative of the town of Newburyport, in the provincial assembly of Massachusetts, being then thirty-three years of age. In the following year, he removed to Boston; and it is a striking proof of the confidence reposed in his principles and in his ability to maintain them, that he was immediately elected as one of the representatives of this town to the General Court. In 1779, he was chosen a member of the convention for framing a constitution of state government. He was, with James Bowdoin and John Adams, from the Boston delegation, placed upon the committee of twenty-four, for reporting a declaration of rights and the form of a constitution. In the year 1781, he was chosen a member of the Continental Congress, and in the following year was appointed by that body one of the three judges of the court which had been established, for the trial of appeals from the courts of admiralty in the several states. In 1784, he was selected as one of the commis-

sioners to establish the boundary between Massachusetts and New York.

On the adoption of the constitution of the United States, Judge Lowell was appointed by General Washington to the bench of the District Court of Massachusetts. He filled the judicial station with eminent ability; and was, in particular, well versed in admiralty law, at a time when that branch of jurisprudence was less familiar at our tribunals, than at the present day. In 1801, he was appointed chief justice of the Circuit Court for the first circuit, under the new organization of the judiciary which then took place.—He was for eighteen years a member of the corporation of Harvard College, warmly attached to its interests, and one of the most zealous and efficient of its friends, at a time when its prosperity was less securely established than at present. He was distinguished for his literary taste and his attainments as a scholar. On the decease of Governor Bowdoin, president of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, Judge Lowell was requested by the Academy to deliver his eulogy, which was afterwards published in one of the volumes of the Academy's Memoirs. His active benevolence made him an object of affection and gratitude. The integrity of his official character was universally admitted amidst the collisions of party. His personal intercourse was rendered peculiarly attractive by his brilliant powers of conversation, and was the delight of all who enjoyed it.

The maternal grandfather of our founder was the late Jonathan Jackson, Esq., who was also one of the most esteemed and distinguished citizens of Boston. Judge Lowell, though of the preceding class, had been his chamber-mate and most intimate friend at college. This circumstance, probably, induced Mr. Jackson, after leaving college, to transfer his residence to Newburyport. After passing an apprenticeship in the counting-house of Patrick Tracy, Esq., then one of the most distinguished merchants of Newburyport, he commenced business in that town. Like his early friend, of whom I have just spoken, Mr. Jackson took a prompt and decided part with the friends of American independence. After the removal of Judge Lowell to Boston, Mr. Jackson represented the town of Newburyport in the provincial legislature. He was a member of the convention, which assembled to frame the state constitution, and was one of the committee of twenty-four, above alluded to, by whom the plan of that instrument was reported. In 1782, he was a member of the Congress of the United States.

Mr. Jackson inherited from his father what, in those days, was considered a large patrimony. Besides bearing his allotted portion of the public burdens, he made voluntary advances and contributions for the public service, and at the close of the war was largely the creditor of the commonwealth.

At the time of the insurrection in 1786, Mr. Jackson was among the most forward to maintain

the supremacy of the laws. In the company of volunteers who marched from Boston to support the sheriff of Middlesex, he was the second in command. Subsequently he went to the western counties as a volunteer aid to his friend General Lincoln, and remained with that distinguished soldier and patriot till the insurrection was suppressed.

On the organization of the federal government, he was appointed the first marshal of Massachusetts. On the introduction of the system of internal revenue, he was selected by President Washington to be inspector of the revenue in the county of Essex, and, in 1796, was appointed supervisor of the revenue of the whole state. He held this last office till the commerce of the country became sufficiently extensive to support the expenses of the government by the duties on imports, and the internal revenue ceased to be levied. In the latter part of his life, he was the treasurer of the commonwealth, and of the university at Cambridge. This last office he held at the time of his death, in the year 1810. On his appointment as supervisor of the revenue of Massachusetts, in 1796, Mr. Jackson removed to Boston, where he continued to reside for the residue of his life. He was one of the most distinguished members of a circle of patriots, of whom but one or two survive — a class of men, who, now that time has softened the asperities of party-feeling, and impaired the interest of former controversies, will be admitted,

on all hands, to have been among the most ardent friends of American independence, and the most intelligent and efficient founders of our constitutions of government. He was the friend and associate of Ames, of Parsons, and of Cabot, and yielded neither to them, nor to any one, in sterling patriotism and Roman integrity, both in private and public life. The various public trusts and offices which he filled, sufficiently attest the estimation in which he was held by his contemporaries; and he transmitted, at his decease, a name, honored in his own person, to those who have increased its honors in the highest walks of professional and active usefulness.

I take great satisfaction in these recollections; they suggest a very pleasing combination of ideas. Our lamented founder, Mr. John Lowell, jun., was of the third generation which has come upon the stage since the close of the war of 1756, — the true date of the American revolution. At that time, the United States were poor and feeble colonies. The generation to which he belonged was the first which came forward into life with much transmitted property; and it will ever be remembered to his praise, that he has set such a bright example of pouring back so much of the ample portion which had fallen to his share, into the bosom of the public weal. Such being his personal merit, it is truly gratifying to trace his descent to those in the *first* generation, who were among the most prominent and effective citizens,

in this part of the country, in establishing and consolidating the liberties of the country,—the broad basis on which its prosperity has been reared,—and to a parent in the *second* generation, who was surpassed by no other in the success of his efforts to build on that foundation, and to diffuse among his fellow-citizens the blessings of productive industry, as the natural result of free and wise institutions of government; and thus to lay the foundation of those accumulations of property, which, liberally dispensed, must, in a republic, constitute the great fund for all enterprises of social improvement.

That parent was Mr. Francis C. Lowell, who is still freshly remembered among us, as one of those who have reflected the highest honor on the character of the American merchant. He was distinguished for the originality of his views, the clearness of his perceptions, the variety and accuracy of his knowledge, and his power of bringing it to practical results, and perhaps still more for the sterling purity and integrity of his character. To him, more than to any other individual, is New England, or rather is America, indebted, for the permanent establishment of the cotton manufacture in this country. The earlier attempts had not gone beyond spinning by machinery, and had been made with but partial success. Mr. Slater had brought from England, in the year 1789, a knowledge of the inventions of Arkwright for spinning cotton; but the ma-



chinery constructed in this country is believed to have been originally of an imperfect character, and to have remained without improvement. Some attempts had been made, even before the arrival of Mr. Slater, to introduce this branch of industry. Bounties were granted by the state of Massachusetts, and considerable capital, here and elsewhere, was invested in the business; but no extensive or important results were obtained. The machinery was of an imperfect description, and badly constructed; there was great want of skill; commerce was the favorite pursuit with men of capital; and the competition of foreign countries was, under these circumstances, overwhelming. Perhaps an obstacle as serious as any other, was a prevailing belief, amounting almost to a superstition, that it was impossible for this country to engage to advantage in any branch of manufactures, which had been long established in foreign countries.

At length, in 1807, the accustomed commercial intercourse of the United States with Europe was interrupted by political events, which seemed likely to continue to operate for some time. Sagacious observers began to perceive the approach of a new era in American industry, and capital, to some extent, in the different parts of the country, being necessarily withdrawn from commerce, sought investment in various branches of manufactures. This, however, was more particularly the case in Pennsylvania, and in reference

to the manufactures of iron. The demand for cotton goods was, no doubt, to some extent, supplied, during the interruption of our intercourse with Europe and India, by American manufactures of that article, but mainly, it is believed, by household fabrics.

In 1810, Mr. Francis C. Lowell was induced to visit England with his family, on account of the state of his health. The vast importance of manufacturing industry, as a source of national wealth, was no doubt impressed with new force upon his mind in consequence of his observations in that country, and some branches of manufactures were examined by him with care; but it is not known that he paid particular attention to that of cotton. On his return home, and shortly after the commencement of the war of 1812, Mr. Lowell was so strongly convinced of the practicability of establishing that manufacture in the United States, that he proposed to a kinsman and friend (Mr. Patrick T. Jackson) to 'make the experiment on an ample scale. The original project contemplated only the weaving of cotton by machinery. The power-loom, although it had been for some time invented in England, was far less used in that country, in proportion to the quantity of cotton spun, than at the present day, and was wholly unknown in the United States. After deliberation, the enterprise was resolved upon. A model of a common loom was procured by Mr. Lowell and his friend,—both equally

ignorant of the practical details of the mode in which the power-loom was constructed,—and their joint attention was bestowed on the re-invention of that machine. Satisfied with the result of their experiments, they proceeded to form a company among their personal and family friends, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, and entered into contract with Mr. Jacob Perkins to superintend the construction of the machinery. Mr. Perkins having left this part of the country before the machinery was constructed or planned, the late Mr. Paul Moody was recommended by him as his successor in the enterprise; and no circumstance more favorable to its result could have occurred. Mr. Moody possessed a mechanical genius of the highest order, though at this time little developed by study or practice. On his first examination of the working model of the power-loom which had been constructed by Mr. Lowell and Mr. Jackson, he entertained but little hope of its success. He lived to see it become one of the most important agents in promoting the prosperity of America. The winter of 1812—1813 was passed at Waltham, where a water-power had been purchased, in bringing the loom to perfection. On being completed, it was found to answer the purpose so entirely, as to warrant the immediate construction, on the same plan, of all the looms needed for the establishment.

Here, however, an unforeseen difficulty presented

itself, in the trouble and expense of preparing for the loom the thread obtained from the spinning-mills of the country, and which, in the original plan of the enterprise at Waltham, was depended on to supply the looms at that place. It was immediately determined to extend the undertaking to the entire manufacture of the article in all its parts. Machinery for spinning, of the best description known at that time in the country, was ordered; but on its erection at Waltham, it was pronounced by Mr. Moody to be worthless, and was immediately removed, at the total sacrifice of what it had cost. It of course became necessary to supply its place; and in the progress of this undertaking, the various portions of the machinery known to be in use in England were reconstructed at Waltham, without assistance from models, by a machinist who had never seen them in operation, with no aid but what was to be obtained from books, and some drawings of a portion of the works, which had been casually brought from England at this juncture. It is probable that the extent to which Mr. Moody and his intelligent employers were obliged to depend upon the resources of their own minds, was, upon the whole, an advantageous circumstance. Had they operated with working models of the best British machinery before them, they might have been satisfied with an exact imitation of them. As it was, important improvements were introduced in every part of the machinery, and some original inventions of great value were made. Among the former may

be mentioned the improvements of the dressing-table and the warping machine; and among the original inventions, the method of spinning the thread directly upon the quill, and the double speeder. Many of these improvements and inventions have been since introduced into England. The mechanical contrivance and execution of the machinery was principally the work of Mr. Moody; the mathematical calculations necessary for their adjustment were all made by Mr. Lowell. The calculations connected with the double speeder were submitted to the late Dr. Bowditch, with a view to procure his testimony on a trial which had arisen as to the patent right, and were pronounced by him, on that occasion, to be such as few individuals were competent to perform.

Not less than two and a half years were required for these preparations, in which the whole capital of the company was expended. Such, however, was the faith reposed by their associates in the judgment of Mr. Lowell and Mr. Jackson, that when, in the autumn of 1815, it was proposed by these gentlemen to double the capital of the establishment, the proposal was promptly acceded to, although not a single piece of cloth had as yet been delivered from the looms. Some judgment may be formed from the following fact, which occurred at this period, or shortly after, of the reduction which has been effected in the price of an article, that enters so extensively into the ordinary consumption of the people of the United States. A considerable

quantity of thread having accumulated in the hands of the company beyond the capacity of their looms. it was distributed among the hand-weavers in the neighborhood, to be manufactured into cloth, at a cost of ten cents per yard for weaving. The entire cost of the same article, including, of course, the raw material, has been reduced below that sum !

Several months before this enlargement of the capital of the company, and while the machinery was yet in progress of construction, the war was terminated. This circumstance materially changed the aspect of things in reference to many of the manufacturing projects in the United States. Much of the capital which had been invested in different parts of the Union in manufacturing establishments, was withdrawn at a great sacrifice. Mr. Lowell and his associates determined to persevere. The existing interruption of commerce had not been lost sight of, as a circumstance favorable to their undertaking in its infancy, but its continuance as a permanent state of things had not been depended upon. Although, as we have seen, they had not yet finished a piece of cloth, they relied so confidently on their calculations, that they determined to risk the experiment of going on with the establishment; and probably no single purpose of private individuals ever involved a greater amount of public interests. They did not, however, conceal from themselves the fact, that a great change had taken place in the condition of the country. That interruption of trade, which was the original prompting

cause of the enterprise, had now ceased to exist. It was in the nature of things that there should be a reaction; that the country, after so long an interruption of foreign commerce, would immediately be inundated from the glutted markets of Europe and India, pouring their stocks into the United States, with a profusion inseparable from the return of peace. The double duties, which were levied for a year after the war, served as a temporary protection; and it was determined to make an appeal to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress, to devise a system of permanent security. The baleful connection of this question with party politics had not then commenced. Mr. Francis C. Lowell repaired to Washington in the winter of 1816; and, in confidential intercourse with some of the leading members, he fixed their attention on the importance, the prospects, and the dangers of the cotton manufacture, and the policy of shielding it from foreign competition by legislative protection. Constitutional objections, at that time, were unheard of. The Middle States, under the lead of Pennsylvania, were strong in the manufacturing interest. The West was about equally divided. The New England States, attached, from the settlement of the country, to commercial and navigating pursuits, were less disposed to embark in a new policy, which was thought adverse to some branches of foreign trade, and particularly to the trade with India, from which the supply of coarse cottons was principally derived. The Planting States, and eminently

South Carolina, then represented by several gentlemen of distinguished ability, held the balance between the rival interests. To the planting interest it was demonstrated by Mr. Lowell, that, by the establishment of the cotton manufacture in the United States, the southern planter would greatly increase his market. He would furnish the raw material for all those American fabrics which should take the place of manufactures imported from India, or partly made in England from India cotton. He would thus, out of his own produce, be enabled to pay for all the supplies which he required from the North. This simple and conclusive view of the subject prevailed, and determined a portion of the South to throw its weight into the scale in favor of a protective tariff. The minimum duty on cotton fabrics, the corner stone of the system, was proposed by Mr. Lowell, and is believed to have been an original conception on his part. It was recommended by Mr. Lowndes, it was advocated by Mr. Calhoun, and was incorporated into the law of 1816. To this provision of law, the fruit of the intelligence and influence of Mr. Lowell, New England owes that branch of industry which has made her amends for the diminution of her foreign trade; which has kept her prosperous under the exhausting drain of her population to the West; which has brought a market for his agricultural produce to the farmer's door; and which, while it has conferred these blessings on this part of the country,



has been productive of good, and nothing but good, to every other portion of it. For these public benefits,—than which none, not directly connected with the establishment of our liberties, are of a higher order, or of a more comprehensive scope,—the people of the United States are indebted to Mr. Francis C. Lowell; and in conferring his name upon the noble city of the arts in our neighborhood, a monument not less appropriate than honorable has been reared to his memory. What memorial of a great public benefactor so becoming as the bestowal of his name on a prosperous community, which has started, as it were, from the soil at the touch of his wand? Pyramids and mausoleums may crumble to the earth, and brass and marble mingle with the dust they cover, but the pure and well-deserved renown, which is thus incorporated with the busy life of an intelligent people, will be remembered, till the long lapse of ages and the vicissitudes of fortune shall reduce all of America to oblivion and decay.

In thus dwelling, for a short time, on the eminent public services of his father, I am sure I shall stand in no need of an excuse with the friends of Mr. John Lowell, jun., the oldest of the four children (three sons and a daughter) who survived him, and inherited from him an honorable independence,—the well-merited reward of the efforts so widely felt in the prosperity of the

country. Mr. John Lowell, jun., was born on the 11th of May, 1799, and, after receiving his earliest education at the schools of his native city, was taken by his father to Europe, on occasion of the voyage to which I have already alluded, and placed at the high-school of Edinburgh. He retained to the last an affectionate recollection of the friendships formed by him at this early period; and during his travels in the East, toward the close of his life, he gave the most substantial and munificent proofs of the strength of the attachments of his childhood. He accompanied his father on his return to America, and in 1813 was placed at Harvard College. He had always been remarked for an inquisitive turn of mind, and for the eagerness with which he sought to inform himself, both by conversation and books. He might be said, with truth, to have inherited a thirst for knowledge. His favorite reading was voyages and travels; and at this early period of his life, he was more thoroughly acquainted with geography than most men of finished education. His health did not permit him to complete his collegiate course, and, after two years' residence at Cambridge, he left the university to follow a more active course of life. In 1816 and 1817, he made two voyages to India, — the first to Batavia, returning by Holland and England, the second to Calcutta.

His readiness to engage, in his youth, in these distant voyages, without the inducement of necessity, may, no doubt, be considered as an early

indication of that passion for foreign travel, which afterwards disclosed itself in his character, and which was unquestionably stimulated by this glimpse of the remote East. Although circumstances did not permit him for a long time to gratify his taste in this respect, there is reason to believe, that he cherished, from a very early period, the hope of adding something to the stock of modern discovery. Among his earliest arrangements of business, there are traces of a plan of a voyage to Africa, and of attempts to explore the mysteries of the geography of that continent, which have hitherto resisted the enterprise, the courage, and the self-devotion of so many intelligent and unfortunate travellers.

From the time of his return from his second voyage, with invigorated health, Mr. Lowell became a diligent student. He was engaged with success in commercial pursuits, and, of course, gave to them a sufficient degree of attention. His operations, however, were principally connected with the East Indies, and did not engross his time. His leisure was almost exclusively devoted to reading. He spared no time for the frivolous pleasures of youth,—less, perhaps, than his health required for its innocent relaxations, and for exercise. Few subjects in science or literature escaped his attention; and an uncommonly retentive memory rendered available, for future use, the knowledge which he was so diligent in acquiring. He rapidly formed one of the best selected and ex-

*reading  
Library*

pensive private libraries in the city, and acquired a familiarity with its contents, not always possessed by the owner of many books.

He did not, however, allow his love of reading to divert his thoughts from the political and moral interests of the community. His time and his property were freely given to the calls of public and private benevolence. He engaged with earnestness in the promotion of the various public-spirited undertakings of the day. He took an active part in political concerns. Regarding our institutions of government as better adapted than any others to promote the virtue and happiness of the people, he considered it the duty of every good citizen to bear his part of the burden of sustaining and administering them. Engaged in lucrative pursuits, which made much attention to public business a pecuniary sacrifice, and with a thirst for knowledge which superseded the necessity of political excitement, he yet gave himself, on principle, to the public service. He was repeatedly a member of the Common Council of the city, and the legislature of the commonwealth. In both of these bodies he was distinguished for his assiduous attention to his duties, and for the practical and business-like view which he took of every subject of discussion. Indeed it was his characteristic to do *thoroughly* whatever he undertook. His usefulness was, however, more conspicuous in the committee-room than at the caucus; and as he did *not* depend upon office for bread, he dwelt less than is the fashion

of the day in professions of disinterested regard for the people. Leaving others to flatter them, his own conscience was satisfied, when he had served them to the best of his ability. He was a philosophical student of the genius of our political systems, and passed the autumn of the year 1829 at Richmond, for the purpose of attending the debates of the Convention assembled in that city to revise the constitution of Virginia.

In the years 1830 and 1831, he had the misfortune to lose, in the course of a few months, his wife and two daughters, his only children. This calamity broke up, for a season, all his pleasant associations with home, and served to revive the slumbering passion for foreign travel, of which we have seen the early indications. Desirous of extending his acquaintance with his own country before going abroad, he passed a considerable portion of the summer of 1832 in a tour in the Western States. He made other preparations, of a more serious character, for what might befall him abroad, and, as the event proved, with a spirit foreboding that early termination of his life which Providence had appointed. Bereaved, by the domestic calamity just alluded to, of all those dependent upon him for their support and establishment in life, he had already conceived and matured the plan of his munificent foundation. By a will made before leaving his native country, he set aside a large portion of his ample property to be expended, forever, in the support of those courses of lec-

tures in the city of Boston, of which the first is now about to commence.

Although the plan of his travels abroad was not, probably, at this time settled, there is evidence that he contemplated a long absence, and a very extensive tour. He, no doubt, proposed to himself, on leaving home, to penetrate the Eastern continent as far as practicable. He mentions, in some of his early letters, his purpose, if possible, to enter the Chinese empire by the Indian frontier. Alluding to the distant prospect of his return home, he uses the striking expression, "I must first see the circle of the earth." More than once he intimates the design of passing from the east of Asia to the Polynesian Archipelago.

With these vast projects revolving in his mind, — with feelings not alienated from home, but seeking relief from its sorrows in the excitement of travel, — with an almost unlimited command of the means of gratifying his curiosity, — with a mind well fitted for instructive observation by the possession of a large amount of various knowledge, — with those moral qualities of industry, perseverance, and courage, which are required for advantageous travel in barbarous countries, — with that elevation of spirit which is produced by a consciousness that he had made provision for great objects of public utility, to take effect should any disaster befall himself, — he sailed for Europe, in November, 1832, never to return. The following winter and spring were passed in Paris, and the summer and autumn of

1833 in England, Scotland, and Ireland. His project of extensive travels in Asia was now sufficiently matured, to be announced to his friends at home. He began to look on every thing abroad as it bore upon his preparation for this object. Information with respect to the routes was sought in every quarter, and instruments of the most perfect kind were procured by him to be made by the best artists in London. He omitted no opportunity of forming the acquaintance of the few individuals, who had preceded him in the regions which he proposed to explore. What was of the most material consequence, he received from Lord Glenelg, then Mr. Grant, the secretary of state for the colonies, such official recommendations as would have procured him greater facilities in his tour in the interior of India, than were ever enjoyed by a native of this country, — probably by any person not a native of Great Britain. The purpose of visiting the East had by this time seized upon his soul, with the grasp of a ruling passion. In one of his letters from London, in November, 1833, in describing, with great vivacity, the various personages to whom he had been presented at the hospitable table of Lord Glenelg, including among them those of the highest political rank and consideration in the kingdom, he speaks of a young gentleman, at that time unknown to fame, as being to him the most interesting person in the company, “the topmost jewel in a precious diadem.” This individual was Lieutenant, now, I believe, Sir Alexander Burnes, well known as the

author of Travels into Bokhara, and whose acquaintance with the interior of the Oriental world, acquired by thirteen years passed in the civil and military service of the Company, formed an attraction to Mr. Lowell, as he says, so engrossing, "as to lead him to forget almost every thing else, and to feel, in a short time, like an intimate acquaintance."

Early in December, 1833, he again passed over to the continent, taking the route of Holland and Belgium to Paris. His projects for the future course of his travels, as far as they were digested at that time, may be gathered from a letter to the chargé d'affaires of the United States at London, of the 19th December, 1833, in reply to a letter of inquiry from that gentleman. "I leave Paris," says he, "in five or six days, and proceed rapidly through France, Italy, and Sicily, resting a few days at some of the principal towns. I expect to reach Malta by the beginning or middle of April. From Malta we shall endeavor to make a short visit to the Pyramids, by the way of Alexandria and Cairo, and from thence to go to Jerusalem, by the way of the desert of Suez. Taking shipping at some port in Syria or Palestine, we shall follow the coast to Smyrna. Should this route be inexpedient, on account of want of time, fear of the plague, or political disturbance, we shall visit Greece before proceeding to Smyrna. From the last-named place we shall proceed to Constantinople, where we intend to arrive as early as the middle of July or first of August; because it would be very disagreeable to be overtaken by



cold weather in the mountainous regions of Armenia, Koordistân, or Georgia. In August, we shall proceed from Constantinople to Trebizond on the Black Sea, probably by water. From Trebizond we shall start on horseback, and, placing our baggage on mules, follow for a time nearly the route of the ten thousand Greeks under Xenophon, and rest a short time at Teflis, the capital of Georgia. We shall leave Teflis as soon as possible, and stop next at Teheran, the capital of Persia. Here I propose to pass two or three months, both because, in all probability, the season will be unfavorable for travelling, and because I should like to obtain a slight knowledge of the Persian language. From Teheran we shall cross Persia, passing through Ispahan, the ruins of Persepolis and Shirauz, — the city of gardens, — and Busheer on the Persian Gulf. Thence I take shipping for Bombay."

Such, it will be observed, was but the introductory portion of the tour which Mr. Lowell projected, of which the most important and considerable part was to commence with his arrival on the western coast of the peninsula of Hindostan. Events, to which I shall have occasion presently to allude, caused a departure from a considerable portion of the route here sketched out.

After a few days passed in Paris, and an excursion to the south-western portion of France, he proceeded to Italy, by the way of Nice and Genoa, and having visited the principal cities in Lombardy, arrived in Florence in the early part of February,

1834. The charms of the climate, the beautiful remains of antiquity, and the wonders of modern art which have been produced by their contemplation, the all-pervading interest of the classic soil of Italy, with the attractions of society, to which he found access on the most advantageous footing, detained him in the various cities of Italy beyond his calculation. While in Florence, he gratified his taste for the fine arts, by engaging our accomplished fellow-citizen Greenough to execute a statue for him, on one of the most graceful subjects of classic mythology, to be presented to the Boston Athenæum. At Rome, he made an agreement with a Swiss artist, highly recommended to him by Horace Vernet, as an excellent draftsman and painter, to accompany him, for the purpose of taking sketches and designs of scenery, ruins, and costumes, throughout the whole of his tour. A considerable number of drawings, executed by this artist, have been received in this country since Mr. Lowell's decease.

Having completed the examination of the objects of interest in the vicinity of Naples, and visited the beautiful ruins at Pæstum, Mr. Lowell crossed to Palermo. Although within the pale of Europe, some of the peculiar hardships of Oriental travelling commence in the island of Sicily. Except in the immediate neighborhood of large towns, there are no roads nor public conveyances, and no houses for the reception of travellers. But circumstances like these do but give a zest to travel. Mr. Lowell devoted a month to the tour of the island. He

explored the majestic ruins of Agrigentum and Selinus, — perhaps the most imposing monuments of classical antiquity, — visited Syracuse and Catania, and ascended the middle region of *Ætna*. Nor was his attention confined to the wonderful remains of ancient art; he surveyed the countries he visited with the eye of a naturalist. In a letter of the 8th June, 1834, to the Princess Galitzin, (the amiable and accomplished granddaughter of the celebrated Marshal Suwarrow,) whose acquaintance he had formed at Florence, he thus expresses himself on the subject of the tour, which he had just accomplished in this interesting region: — “Clear and beautiful are the skies in Sicily, and there is a warmth of tint about the sunsets unrivalled even in Italy. It resembles what one finds under the tropics; and so does the vegetation. It is rich and luxuriant. The palm begins to appear; the palmetto, the aloe, and the cactus adorn every road-side; the superb oleander bathes its roots in almost every brook; the pomegranate and a large species of *convolvulus* are every where seen. In short, the variety of flowers is greater than that of the prairies in the Western States of America, though I think their number is less. Our *Rudbeckia* is, I think, more beautiful than the *chrysanthemum coronarium* which you see all over Sicily; but there are the orange and the lemon.”

After a month passed in Sicily, Mr. Lowell crossed to Malta. Here he had so far altered the original plan of his route, that he determined to make the

tour of Greece before visiting Asia Minor. Accordingly, after devoting a few days to this celebrated rock, he embarked in a Greek vessel for Corfu, and arrived in that island, after a tedious passage of fifteen days. When the traveller from Western Europe or America finds himself sailing along the channel which separates the Ionian Islands from the shores of continental Greece, he feels himself, at length, arrived in "the bright clime of battle and of song." In Italy and Sicily, he is still in the modern and the Western World, although numberless memorials of the past remain, and a foretaste of Eastern costume and manners presents itself. But he realizes, with full consciousness, that he is indeed on his pilgrimage, when his eyes rest upon those gems of the deep, which the skill of the Grecian minstrel has touched with a spark of immortality; — when he can say to himself, as he passes along, "On this spot was unfolded the gorgeous web of the Odyssey; from that cliff Sappho threw herself into the sea; on my left hand lay the gardens of Alcinoüs, — and the olive, and the grape, and the orange, still cover the soil; before me rises the embattled citadel which Virgil describes; on my right are the infamous Acroceraunian rocks of Horace; and within that blue, mountain barrier, which bounds the horizon, were concealed the mystic grove and oracle of Dodona — the cradle of the mythology of Greece." When to these recollections of antiquity are added the modern Oriental features of the scene; — the dress of the Grecian peasant or boatman, seen as

you coast along the islands; the report of the musket of the Albanian, — half-shepherd, half-bandit, — as he tends his flocks on the hill-sides of the mainland; the minaret, the crescent, and the cypress grove, which mark the cities of the living, and the resting-place of the dead; — you then feel yourself departed from the language, the manners, and the faith of Christendom, and fairly entered within the vestibule of the mysterious East.

After passing a few days at Corfu, the capital of the Ionian Islands, Mr. Lowell crossed the narrow strait which separates it from the shores of Albania, and went up to Yanina, the residence of the late celebrated Ali Pacha.\* The beautiful little city of Yanina — which, in 1819, lay quietly nestled upon a promontory extending into a lake of moderate compass, half-surrounded by the neighboring heights of Pindus, and under the protection of its stern master, exhibiting for a Turkish town an unwonted air of prosperity — was seen by Mr. Lowell just emerging from a destructive war, which had ended with the life of the aged despot. Having passed a few days here and in the neighborhood, he pursued his tour southward, through the passes of the Suliot Mountains, apparently by the route which is rendered so familiar to us by the second canto of *Childe Harold*. A part of this region has acquired a melancholy

\* From his landing on the Albanian shore, Mr. Lowell commenced the daily observation of the state of the thermometer, barometer, and hygrometer, and entered the result with precision in his Journal.

interest, as the theatre of the exploits and fall of Marco Bozzaris, and other mournful scenes of the Greek revolution. Visiting Missolonghi, — where he became acquainted with the remaining members of the family of Bozzaris, — Patras, the Gulf of Lepanto, the citadel of Corinth, Mycene, Argos, Napoli di Romania, Epidaurus, and the Island of Ægina, he arrived about the 10th of July at Athens, — “that venerable, ruined, dirty, little town,” — I use his own words, — “of which the streets are most narrow and nearly impassable, but the poor remains of whose ancient taste in the arts exceed in beauty every thing I have yet seen in either Italy, Sicily, or any other portion of Greece.”

But, notwithstanding his keen relish for the beauties of ancient art, it was no part of his design to make an extensive Grecian tour. In the first week of September, he took passage for the Island of Syra, which, since the downfall of the Turkish dominion in Greece, has become the emporium of the Archipelago. This island was, at that time, the residence of the Rev. Mr. Robertson, a missionary of the Protestant Episcopal church in the United States, of whose labors, as of those of the Rev. Messrs. King and Hill, at Athens, also American missionaries, Mr. Lowell makes frequent and honorable mention in his letters, bearing witness to their visible instrumentality in promoting the regeneration of Greece. He also found, on more than one occasion, in the course of his tour, that the liberal supplies sent by this country to Greece in the time of her extremity

in 1827 and 1828, were still borne in grateful recollection, and caused the American name to stand high in the affections of her citizens.

After having been detained a considerable time at Syra, by want of a wind, Mr. Lowell took passage for Smyrna, where he arrived on the 24th September, 1834. He had now reached the region which preceded even classic Greece in the march of civilization, — the shores of that Ionia where Homer lived and sung, before the light of poetry dawned on Athens. Nor are classic associations its only interest. It abounds in names that stand prominent on the mysterious page of the Apocalypse. In a letter to a friend in America, dated October 20th, he observes, “The rich and, in spite of Turkish oppression, well-cultivated valley of the Meander, adorned with cypresses and olive-trees, and filled with fig-trees and vineyards, is worthy of being compared to the broad interval lands of an American river. It resembles, in size and fertility, the Mohawk, and is the second largest river in Asia Minor, the Halys being the first. Near its banks are the ruins of Magnesia, Tralles, Nysa, Laodicea, Tripolis, and, above all, Hierapolis, all of which I visited. I had previously been to Ephesus and Neapolis, or Scala Nova, one of the large commercial towns of the country. I then crossed Mount Messogis in the rain, and descended into the basin of the River Hermus, visited Philadelphia, the picturesque site of Sardis, with its inaccessible citadel, and two solitary but beautiful Ionic columns; and in addition

to what is sometimes called the house of Cræsus, I crossed and drank of the waters of the Pactolus, forded the Hermus by the help of a Toorkman girl and a Greek boy, went to Thyatira and Magnesia *ad Sipylum*, and crossed the steep pass of the Sipylus into the smiling plain of Smyrna."

Information of the prevalence of the plague at Constantinople, and the lateness of the season at which he had arrived on the coast of Asia Minor, prevented Mr. Lowell from executing his original purpose of entering the Black Sea, and crossing by Armenia and Georgia into Persia. It was not till he had been some time at Smyrna, that the plague had so far abated that he deemed it not unsafe, toward the end of November, to make a visit of a few days to Constantinople. Devoting, however, but a very short time to its objects of curiosity and interest, he hastened his return to Smyrna, in order to take passage by the earliest opportunity for Alexandria, in Egypt. Still desirous to see as much as possible of the interior of Asia, he proposed, after ascending the Nile as far as Cairo, to enter Syria by the way of the desert of Suez, and crossing to the Euphrates, take passage in the Persian Gulf for India.

On the 9th of December, he sailed from Smyrna in a Greek brig, the *Bellerophon*, chartered by himself for the conveyance of his party and baggage. He coasted along the Islands of Mitylene, Samos, Patmos, and Rhodes, making some stop at the latter island, and, after a voyage of eighteen days, arrived



at Alexandria. From the moment the traveller sets his foot upon the soil of Egypt, he meets those remains of antiquity which carry him back to a period that precedes the dates of authentic history. The obelisk, which bears the idle name of Cleopatra's Needle, is in sight as he lands. As he moves up the river, broken remnants of elder days, fragments of Norman, Saracenic, Roman, Grecian, and, lastly, Egyptian architecture, tell the tale of the political vicissitudes of this ill-fated region; and when he reaches at length the great pyramids of Memphis, he feels himself in the actual presence of those mysterious dynasties, — which are at once forgotten and immortalized by imperishable monuments, — the ashes of whose sovereigns are laid up in mausoleums that will stand till the earth shall pass away, — whose names and titles are inscribed on obelisks and the walls of temples, from which three thousand years have not obliterated them, in characters whose import has even been deciphered by modern sagacity, but of whose shadowy annals we still strive in vain to catch the clew.

Among Mr. Lowell's letters to his friends at this period, is one written from the summit of the great pyramid on the 12th of February, 1835. "The prospect," says he, "is most beautiful. On the one side, is the boundless desert, varied only by a few low ridges of limestone hills. Then you have heaps of sand and a surface of sand, reduced to so fine a powder, and so easily agitated by the slightest

breeze, that it almost deserves the name of fluid. Then comes the rich, verdant valley of the Nile, studded with villages, adorned with green date-trees, traversed by the Father of Rivers, with the magnificent city of Cairo on its banks, but far narrower than one could wish, as it is bounded, at a distance of some fifteen miles, by the Arabian desert and the abrupt calcareous ridge of Mokattan. Immediately below the spectator lies the city of the dead, the innumerable tombs, the smaller pyramids, the Sphinx, and, still farther off, and on the same line, to the south, the pyramids of Abou Seer, Sakârâ, and Dachoor."

After a short sojourn at Cairo, Mr. Lowell commenced the ascent of the Nile. He had found the temptation to visit Thebes too strong to be resisted. The universal mode of travelling in Egypt is in long, narrow boats, with cabins and awnings, propelled by very large sails, when the wind is favorable, and poled or drawn along by hand, when it fails or is adverse. In a boat of this description, at his own disposal, (being the same which had shortly before been used by Marshal Marmont,) Mr. Lowell was able to regulate his progress, with sole reference to the objects of interest by the way. It happened that Mohammed Ali, the celebrated sovereign of the country, was ascending the Nile at the same time. He was overtaken by Mr. Lowell on the 18th of February, and granted him a long private audience in his tent. His inquiries showed uncommon intelligence and vigor of mind. He sought minute

information as to the military and commercial marine of the United States, and particularly as to the extent of steam navigation upon our large rivers. Having inquired in what direction Mr. Lowell proposed to pursue his journey to India, he dissuaded him from attempting to traverse Syria, on the ground of the unsettled and dangerous state of the country. He advised him to adopt the route of the Red Sea and Mocha, and tendered him his protection up to that point.

Shortly after this interview, the prosperous course of Mr. Lowell's tour, hitherto unbroken by any adverse circumstance, received an alarming check. In consequence of exposure to the evening air, and the general effect of the climate, he was severely attacked by intermittent fever. The disease yielded, at first, to the remedies with which he was provided; and, on his arrival at Thebes, he was able to explore a portion of those stupendous ruins, at all times of extreme interest, and rendered doubly curious by the discoveries of M. Champollion. Establishing his abode on the ruins of a palace at Luxor, he surveyed and examined, as far as the state of his health would permit, the remains of those wonderful structures, on which the names, the wars, and the triumphs of a long succession of Pharaohs are recorded. Unfortunately, his recovery had been imperfect, — the season was advancing, — new exposures brought on a return of his fever, soon complicated with other complaints incident to the climate and region.

The state of his health appears to have awakened

serious apprehensions in his mind. The first moment of convalescence was devoted to the completion of his last will, and to the formal statement of the principles on which he wished the important trust created by him to be administered. We are assembled, this evening, in pursuance of the testamentary provisions drawn up in the land of Egypt, on the ruins of one of the oldest seats of art and civilization of which ruins remain, — provisions in which a great and liberal spirit, bowed down with sickness, in a foreign and a barbarous land, expressed some of its last aspirations for the welfare of his native city.

While detained by sickness at Thebes, he employed his attendants in making a collection of antiquities; and he succeeded in possessing himself of as large an amount and variety of these objects as have, probably, at any time been acquired by an American. They consist of fragments of sculpture in granite, basalt, and alabaster, some of them with hieroglyphical inscriptions; two or three papyrus rolls; bronze figures; mummies; and a multitude of utensils and other articles illustrating the superstitions, arts, and manners of the Egyptians.

A tour in Egypt above the pyramids was not originally proposed by Mr. Lowell; and when, at length, he launched on the Nile, it does not appear that he intended to proceed beyond Thebes. While he was detained at Thebes, however, the appearance of the plague at Cairo made it dangerous for him to return to that place, on his way to Jerusalem, which he had determined, at all events, to visit, previous

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to embarking for India. At the same time he fell in with a young Englishman, who was disposed to undertake a tour to Upper Nubia. The opportunity of visiting the ruins of Meroë, — that mystic region, whose site is scarcely identified by modern curiosity, — the primitive cradle of the sombre civilization, which, descending the Nile, rather overshadowed than enlightened Egypt, — was too attractive to be resisted.

In order to lay in the requisite stores, and make the necessary preparation for his excursion to Nubia, Mr. Lowell descended the Nile from Thebes to Syout, the capital of Upper Egypt. Here he was unfortunately delayed for more than a month; — a circumstance the more to be lamented, as the season was already quite too far advanced for the safe prosecution of a tour within the tropics. During his sojourn at Syout, he received marked attentions from the Turkish governor of that place. He had also an opportunity of witnessing an incident of great curiosity to a European or American traveller. This was the arrival of the great caravan of Dar-four in Central Africa, which had just reached the oasis of Khargeh, at the distance from the Nile of several days' journey across the desert westward. Dar-four is stated by Mr. L. to have been visited but by a single European traveller, the Englishman Browne, about forty years ago. The great caravan to the Nile is despatched once in two years, and is two or three months in crossing the desert. It usually consists of about six hundred merchants and

pilgrims, four thousand slaves, and six thousand camels, laden with ivory, tamarinds, ostrich-feathers, and other articles of African merchandise, and with provisions for sustenance on the way. Nothing in the intercourse of life, as we know it, can give any idea of these caravans. As they afford the only opportunities for communication across the waste of sand, the whole life and action of the central region, its industry and trade, its social relations, all its temporal interests, in greater or less degree, and even its religion, are connected with the caravan. This alone unites the interior of Africa with the world; for this alone furnishes a means of crossing the frightful desert, which insulates its inhabitants from the rest of the species.

“The immense number of tall and lank, but powerful camels,” says Mr. Lowell, in his Journal under this date, “was the first object that attracted our attention in the caravan. The long and painful journey, besides killing perhaps a quarter of the original number, had reduced the remainder to the condition of skeletons, and rendered their natural ugliness still more appalling. Their skins were stretched, like moistened parchment scorched by the fire, over their strong ribs. Their eyes stood out from the shrunken forehead, and the arched back-bone of the animals rose sharp and prominent above their sides, like a butcher’s cleaver. The fat that usually accompanies the middle of the back-bone, and forms with it the camel’s bunch, had entirely disappeared. They had occasion for it, as

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well as for the reservoir of water, with which a bountiful nature has furnished them, to enable them to undergo the laborious journey and the painful fasts of the desert. Their sides were gored with the heavy burdens they had carried.

“The sun was setting. The little slaves of the caravan had just driven in, from their dry pasture of thistles, parched grass, and withered herbage, these most patient and obedient animals, so essential to travellers in the great deserts, and without which it would be as impossible to cross them as to traverse the ocean without vessels. Their conductors made them kneel down, and gradually poured beans between their lengthened jaws. The camels, not having been used to this food, did not like it; they would have greatly preferred a bit of old, worn-out mat, as we have found, to our cost, in the desert. The most mournful cries, something between the braying of an ass and the lowing of a cow, assailed our ears in all directions, because these poor creatures were obliged to eat what was not good for them; but they offered no resistance otherwise. The camels of Dar-four are much taller than those of Egypt and of the neighboring Bedouins, or Arabs, as they call themselves; and I should think them quite as large as those of Asia Minor. They are said to bear the fatigue of a long journey, in the desert, better than the Egyptian camels, and even better than those of the Arabs; but, when transported to the Nile, it is said that the change of food and water kills most of them in a little time.”

It was June before the preparations of Mr. Lowell were completed, and he was able to resume his journey up the Nile. The thermometer now frequently stood at 115 degrees, and he speaks of the temperature of 87 degrees, as appearing delightfully cool. On the 9th of June, he had again reached Thebes, and on the 11th, was at Esneh, on the Nile. On the evening of that day, he was attacked by the painful disease of the eyes, which is so prevalent in Egypt, and by other and more serious complaints incident to tropical regions. He was confined to his bed, by these maladies, for three weeks, at Philæ, an island situated just above the cataracts of the Nile, and four weeks more at Wady Halfa, just below the second cataract. It is needless to describe what he must have endured from the heat and disease, in midsummer, within the tropics. Thinking the exercise of the saddle would be beneficial, notwithstanding the prostration of his health, he left his boat at Wady Halfa, mounted the horse (an Arabian) which he had brought with him from Asia Minor, and, in that way, proceeded into the province of Dongóla. He reached what is supposed to be the neighborhood of the ancient Meroë, about the middle of September. By taking a land route, though he avoided the great bend in the Nile, a considerable part of his journey from Dongóla to El Metemneh lay through a desert.

He had now penetrated far into Ethiopia, — a country which makes so conspicuous a figure in the geography of Homer and the sacred writers. Its



inhabitants were the original founders of the civilization of Egypt. The queen of Sheba was an Ethiopian princess; and Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, is named in the evangelical history. Nothing can exceed the present desolation and misery of this once favored region.\* Mr. Lowell pursued his journey as far as Khartoom, a modern city, founded by the bey of Egypt, as the capital of his kingdom of Sennaar, the last of his conquests in this direction. It lies at the junction of the two great branches which form the Nile, the Blue and the White Rivers, in the latitude of 15 degrees, — the latitude of Honduras, the mouth of the Senegal, and of Goa, — and probably as unhealthy, for a northern constitution, as any parallel between the equator and the pole. The city of Khartoom contained about 15,000 inhabitants, when Mr. Lowell visited it, and was the residence of Koorshood Pacha, a Turk of distinction in the military service of the bey of Egypt, and governor of the kingdoms or provinces of Dongóla and Sennaar. The kind offices and the protection of this officer were of great service to Mr. Lowell, both at Khartoom and on his journey to the Red Sea.

After a few days' residence at the capital of Sennaar, the state of his health, and the progress

\* The degree of interest taken by Mr. Lowell in its antiquities can only be adequately understood by the inspection of his Journal, which is filled with the result of the minutest observations and measurements, made under the depressing influence of severe disease and a tropical climate.

of the season, (it was now about the middle of November,) warned him that it was time to shape his course toward India. To this end, it was necessary again to descend the Nile as far as the city of Berber, in Lower Nubia, to cross the desert of Nubia from that place to Sowākeen, on the Red Sea, and there embark for Mocha. Koorshood Pacha furnished him with letters to the governors both of Berber and Sowākeen, without which it would have been difficult to find the means of transportation. A detachment of troops was about marching from Sennaar, to reënforce the army of the bey of Egypt in Arabia; and, as they would proceed by the same route, and cross the Red Sea at the same place, they would, of course, monopolize the scanty means of conveyance. But the recommendation of Koorshood removed all obstacles, and procured Mr. Lowell a kind reception from the governor of Berber or El Mekheroff; and a journey from that place of fourteen days, on camels, across the desert, brought him to Sowākeen, a small port on the western coast of the Red Sea.

Here, also, in virtue of the powerful influence exerted in his favor from the capital, he was enabled, without difficulty, to engage a small vessel navigated by Arabs, to transport himself, his attendants, and baggage, to Mocha. He embarked on the 16th December, 1835, and arrived, in four or five days, at Massôwá, another small port on the western coast of the Red Sea, in about 16 degrees north latitude, where he had agreed to stop, for the con-

venience of the party navigating his barque. On the 22d of December, at half past four o'clock in the afternoon, he resumed his voyage. In the course of the day, a disaster occurred, which is graphically described in the following letter. I introduce it entire, as affording a specimen of Mr. Lowell's personal adventures, and as evincing no small degree of energy, under enfeebling disease and circumstances of considerable embarrassment.

‘Island of Dássá, near Massôwá, and still nearer }  
Dahalar, Red Sea, 24th Dec., 1835, 6½ A. M. }

“I return thanks to God, who has preserved me. We have saved our lives, which we expected to lose yesterday, at about this hour. I have even saved a considerable part of my effects. When I was a youth, I longed for a shipwreck. I thought it would make me a second Robinson Crusoe; but I confess that I learned, with no small satisfaction, yesterday afternoon, that the island on which we were cast, was not a desert one. Most of the islands in the Red Sea are dry, flat, and desolate, without water, and uninhabited either by men or quadrupeds. This has several small mountains, is verdant at this season, and is occupied by people of the tribe of Dankali, of whom Bruce gives some account. They were formerly subject to the neighboring tribe of Naeëb, and are now subject to the pacha of Egypt.

“We left Massôwá, and took, as I supposed, our last look at the lofty, flat-topped Abyssinian moun-

tains at 4½ P. M., on the 22d. We had a fresh north-easterly breeze, and as usual, during the rainy season, a lowering sky. After sunset, a land breeze from those mountains set in. The wind freshened; it began to rain; it poured. The water passed through my mat-topped litter, as though it had been a sieve. I called Yanni twice: he spread the tent over my litter, and got a ducking himself, before he retired under the little after-deck. All was useless. I got wet to the skin, and thought myself unlucky. In the meantime, our seamen struck their awkward *latine* sail, which is only fit for fair weather, and attempted to anchor; but the anchor was brought up by the end of its cable before reaching bottom. They were aware that they were surrounded by shoals, but neither they nor their pilot knew their precise position. They thought it best, therefore, to trust to fortune; and as it rained hard, every one of them got under cover and went to sleep. This I learned afterwards: had I known it at the time, I should have interrupted their slumbers. The vessel drifted at the pleasure of the wind, and there was neither pilot nor sailor to heave the lead nor sound with a pole, which is their Arab fashion.

“At the end of several hours, we struck on a coral reef. Then all hands jumped overboard to push the vessel off the rocks. My *sais* and cook joined the crew in this duty; but a fresh north-west wind, accompanied by rain and much mist, rendered their efforts unavailing. I retreated to my covered litter again, and put what gold was not already in my

broad Turkish girdle, into my pocket. I did the same with my letters of credit. The water now entered fast through all the seams in the larboard side of the vessel. The men could not bail the schooner fast enough; and as she continued to strike, it was evident the leak would become worse. Yanni now called out, 'They are throwing our cases overboard!' True enough; the hold of the little vessel had been crowded with my effects, and I now saw them floating alongside. There went my best tent, for its poles kept it from sinking, and the waves soon carried it out of sight. Here lay the box that contained my reflecting circle, and another with my Parisian rifle. These two boxes were large, and besides the above and various perishable articles, were filled with a variety of European luxuries and provisions. Macaroni, olives, tongues, the best of the biscuit, the best of the rice, sugar, and tea, were among the number. I wished to keep them till the last, but they were overboard before I had time to speak. The men then came to several heavy packs of elephants' teeth, which I had allowed them to take in place of ballast. They of course went directly to the bottom. The vessel continued to settle down, and before the operation of lightening her was concluded, it was evident that it was of no use.

"We struck at 6 o'clock, A. M., a half an hour before sunrise;—it was now 7 o'clock, but so hazy that we could with difficulty distinguish distant objects. No land was in sight, and the weather was still rough. We were fast enough on the rocks,

but the danger was that the schooner might go to pieces there. All my people behaved well. Yanni alone, the youngest of them, showed, by a few occasional exclamations, that it is hard to look Death in the face at 17, when all the illusions of life are entire. At half past 7, it began to clear up, and the pilot now said that he knew where we were. We saw high mountains to the west and south of us, and land at the distance of three or four miles. We gave three of our water-skins to the pilot, the owner's son, and the most intelligent of the sailors. Having filled them with air, they went in search of assistance, leaving the inefficient *raïs* and six hands on board, besides a passenger chap, the second they had smuggled aboard without my permission.

"It now appeared that if we were to put on board again those articles that had been floating alongside, we not only might stand a chance of saving them, but should fix the schooner more firmly in its present position. I urged this last consideration on the *raïs*, but he either could not or would not do any thing. My drogoman now behaved well. He threw himself into the sea, and, swimming about there, handed me my cloak, and relocked the case from which he had taken it. All my servants, except Antonio, who was disabled with a fit of the rheumatism, went also into the water, and, getting hold of our cases, shamed the sailors into lending us a hand. With their assistance, we soon got most of our articles on board again; and they were now so well persuaded of the utility of the plan, — for the movement of the vessel

became less, — that they began to hoist in their elephants' teeth. The water in the hold was now sensibly less, although it flowed in and out with every wave. This I supposed was owing to the fall of the wind, not thinking of the tide, which is generally small in the Red Sea. At Sowākeen, it is about eighteen inches; but here, so much nearer the ocean, it is much higher.

“Our messengers had swum (on the skins) to a long sand-bank that lay to the south of us; and then walked upon it, as though it had been dry land, and so it is at low tide. It was about three quarters of a mile distant. We waited three or four hours. No people, no boats appeared, except one, which sailed directly from us. I urged the men to make a raft, for I thought we were nearer the shore than we really were. We lashed together all our loose spars, and at length the raft was made. It was noon, and the water had now risen again in the hold. The tide changed at about 8 o'clock; but as we were in a gulf, I could not tell how long or how high the flood might rise. The seamen were as ignorant as the rest of us on that subject. We put one case on the little raft, and two men, swimming alongside, conducted it to the sand-bank in about an hour. They then did not take the trouble to land it, but, Arab fashion, went ashore and lay down upon the sand. Finding they had no notion of coming back, I sent my *sais* after them, with directions to bring the raft and take another case. At half past 2 o'clock, my *sais* returned, singing,

and blowing in one of my empty powder canisters, (which he had picked up,) as if it were a day of rejoicing. He brought with him the raft, the two men, and two of our messengers, the pilot remaining behind. As for the case, which they might have brought as well as not, they had sent it adrift to save trouble. It is thus with the whole African and Arab race, with whom I have had intercourse. You can trust them no farther than you have them under your eye, and that eye wide open. They return you the compliment; for they are the most mistrustful of mortals; and with reason, considering the company they keep.

“The messengers reported, that they had visited a village, and had made known my offer, that, for the preservation of my effects, I would give a hundred dollars, and that a little boat was now on her way to us with the pilot. According to the owner’s son, she would carry two zembals, that is, about three hundred weight, of grain, and he proposed throwing my cases overboard again. As such a boat could not take the tenth part of my effects, and as I had some hopes of towing the boxes after me, and knew that the men would certainly get rid of them, as soon as my back was turned, I consented to this measure. Every thing now went into the sea, even cases that had before been spared. I kept nothing back, except my trunks of wearing apparel, my books, writing materials, a leather bag, into which I had thrust my Journals, my pistols, certain gilt French bagatelles for presents, and a few other articles.



All my floating property was lashed together, and we waited again. At length, the little boat hove in sight, and appeared a good deal larger than had been said; but there was no wind, and she approached slowly. But it was now high tide. The water had risen to the level of the little after-deck; my trunks were moved up still higher to avoid it; the sand beach I have mentioned had long since disappeared; and I could perceive uncertainty and alarm gathering again on the faces of my people. The cook, especially, was much discouraged, and only the *sais* retained his accustomed gayety. He was sure he could save both himself and the horse. I told Antonio to tell him I should make him a present of fifty piastres, that is, nearly two months' wages, for his good behavior. This put him in still better spirits. I was not sure myself that the tide would not rise still higher. It had already risen about three and a half or four feet, and was, in fact, at its highest point.

"Presently the drogoman exclaimed, 'The hands are going to quit the vessel, and I shall quit too.'" His threat did not disturb me, as I knew the poor fellow had not wherewithal to buy a dinner without me; but I did not much relish being left alone on the deck by the seamen. I had always counted, if it came to the worst, on having their aid and the raft to put me on shore. As for swimming, I have not strength for that, especially in my clothes, and so thorough a ducking and exposure might of itself make an end of me. I entered my litter again to

get a pistol, which I thrust into my girdle. Yanni exclaimed, 'They are carrying away our raft!' I stepped again on deck, and, sure enough, the men were all in the water, foolishly attempting to put one of their packs of four great elephants' teeth upon a raft that could scarcely carry more than one. 'That raft is mine,' I exclaimed; 'I made it, and it is tied with my cord, for the purpose of saving my effects.' These people were accustomed to hear me speak with the tone of a master; they hesitated, and then slowly made off with the raft. 'Quit that raft,' said I; 'I will shoot the first man who attempts to move it!' I presented my pistol, and they all left the raft, much to my relief, for I should have fired had they persevered. I gave my second pistol to Antonio, but it was now clear that the tide was beginning to fall. The promised boat approached, and the men now thought only of saving their schooner, — passing, with the facility of children, from one idea to another diametrically opposed to it. As for their ivory, it was safe enough at the bottom of the sea, where they could pick it up again when they liked. I told them I wished all my baggage was in elephants' teeth.

"The boat arrived alongside at last. She proved large enough to take all my trunks and effects on board, that had escaped the sea. We took the cases, that were lashed together, in tow, and left behind the horse, three sheep, a quantity of water-soaked *dourah*, and other articles, some of which were lying at the bottom of the hold. We quitted

the wreck at 3½ P. M., and the horse was led overboard at the same time. I hoped he might follow us, believing the village to be much nearer than it was. The horse soon returned, with his *sais*, to the wreck. There were three men in the little boat besides my servants, the owner's son, the passenger, who pretended to be a sailor, and myself. We had little wind, and the men were neither disposed to row nor pole with energy. They complained that the cases in tow impeded our progress, and were on the point of cutting them loose, saying they would return for them to-morrow. As I considered the measure tantamount to the loss or spoiling of every article in them, I resisted it. The night closed upon us. Presently they said, 'We will leave you and two men on board. Every body else will assist in conducting the floating cases to the shore, where we shall find them to-morrow.' 'Very well,' I replied; 'only Antonio is sick, and must stay with me.' So one of the boatmen, and the owner's son, and a boy, jumped into the sea. I made my cook accompany them, but did not think it best to oblige Yanni or the drogoman to follow suit. There remained the pretended sailor, who now professed to have a headache. I told him he passed himself as a sailor on board of the vessel I had chartered, and he must now take the place of one. So he had to jump overboard. I assented the more readily to this arrangement, as we had now a fresh breeze, which I thought would soon part the towing line. We had kept hitherto an east-

south-east course. . We now veered to south-east and south-south-east, and in another hour arrived at the village. Our other people were all on the beach, having, as I expected, left the cases adrift. After some delay, we got a small room in one of the houses, and were all asleep by midnight.

“This morning, I gave fifty piastres to the boatmen who came to our assistance yesterday. This pleased them exceedingly. Two thirds of my effects are still afloat, and if they bring them to-day, I shall give them fifty piastres more. I hope to start to-morrow for Massôwá, where I shall engage another vessel.

“Five o’clock, P. M. Antonio has returned. The horse is here; so are the sheep. The floating cases of yesterday are picked up. To-morrow I shall know what we have lost. Many articles are damaged, but the eatables chiefly will compose the division which is wholly lost.

“Yours, affectionately,

“JOHN LOWELL, JUN.”

The following day, Mr. Lowell returned to Massôwá with his rescued baggage and effects; and, engaging there a vessel for Mocha, reached that place on the first of January, exhausted by the effects of long-continued disease; and recent fatigue and exposure.

He was fortunate enough to meet, at Mocha, with a surgeon attached to the service of the British East India Company, and, as he thought, derived impor-

tant benefit from his professional advice. But the scene was drawing toward a close. The disease which had hung upon him for seven or eight months, — the merciless heats of a Nubian summer, — the fatigue of his excursion through the desert between the Nile and the Red Sea, — with the shock given to an enfeebled system by his shipwreck, and the want of rest and medical treatment for a month afterwards, — had undermined his constitution. The last letters written by him bear date the 17th January, 1836, at Mocha; at which time he was in daily expectation of the arrival of the British steamboat, on her way to Bombay. No farther intelligence was ever received directly from himself, although his Journal is continued till within a few days of his decease. The steamboat *Hugh Lindsay* arrived at Mocha, from Suez, on the 20th January; and, on the 23d, Mr. Lowell took passage in her for Bombay, which he reached on the 10th of the following month. No improvement had taken place in his health; and, after feebly struggling with his disease about three weeks, he died, at Bombay, on the 4th of March, 1836.

The unadorned narrative, which I have thus attempted, will supersede the necessity of a labored delineation of his character. Its prominent traits are conspicuous in the events of his life. Every one perceives his uncommon energy and perseverance; but it is impossible to do full justice to his resolution and firmness of purpose, without the perusal of his Letter-books and Journal. Nothing less than an

eminent degree of these qualities would have enabled him to pursue his journey into Upper Nubia, in a state of health which would have been deemed by most persons to require the care and comforts of home. He not only persevered, under these circumstances, in continuing his journey far within the tropics, in midsummer, but explored the natural features of the country through which he passed, and the remains of antiquity visited by the way, and recorded the result of his observations with a minuteness, which would be thought highly creditable to the diligence of a person in perfect health. Many incidents also occurred during his travels in the barbarous districts of Asia Minor, Egypt, and, as we have seen by occasion of his shipwreck, in the Red Sea, evincing no common degree of personal firmness and courage.

From those whose acquaintance with Mr. Lowell was more intimate than my own, I understand that a modesty bordering upon diffidence gave to his manners, in general society, an appearance of coldness and reserve, which might lead the stranger to mistake his real character, in which there was a mixture of great strength and delicacy of feeling. The kindness of his disposition, and the warmth of his heart, shone out in the circle of his familiar friends, and diffused a genial influence on all around him.

The purity and delicacy of his moral principles were wholly unimpaired by his large intercourse with the world. Exposed, in youth, to the worst

examples, on ship-board, and in foreign countries, he escaped unhurt, and carried forward into life the innocence of childhood. To a rigid and punctilious sense of justice, and a veneration for truth, he added that lofty sense of honor, which is necessary to the moral heroism of character.

He was a firm believer of the great truths of natural and revealed religion. The sense of an overruling and directing Providence was never absent from his thoughts, and is frequently expressed in his letters. The Scriptures were the companions of his travels; and, by the specific directions given for his foundation, a course of lectures upon the evidences of Christianity was provided for.

His range of general reading was extensive, and his attainments above the common standard of scholarship. They were greatly extended, on his travels, by a diligent study of the languages of the several countries through which he passed, including the modern Greek and vulgar Arabic. He also devoted himself to the study of mineralogy, while passing some time at Edinburgh, in the summer of 1833. His observations of the barometer, of the thermometer, of the hygrometer, and of the course of the winds, are recorded with great precision, and evince familiarity with philosophical instruments. Barometrical estimates are made of the height of the various positions on his travels, where such calculations would be of interest. The state of agriculture, commerce, and particularly manufactures, seems every where to have received much

of his attention ; and valuable information on these subjects is contained in his Journal. He appears to have inherited a talent and taste for mathematics. Calculations, of considerable extent and intricacy, but in an incomplete and fragmentary state, apparently designed to ascertain the cubical content of the larger pyramids, are found among his notes. It is to be remembered, however, that he did not live to enter the field which was the great object of his undertaking. It is probable that large stores of knowledge, gathered up in a singularly retentive memory, were lost, at his decease, without leaving a trace in the Note-books of his journeyings, for the reason that he was arrested by the last summons, before he had set foot upon the region, in reference to which his reading had been for a long time directed. Notwithstanding this circumstance, his Letter-books and Journals are, throughout, those of an acute, sagacious, and well-instructed traveller, and would form, I am persuaded, in a judicious selection, a very acceptable present to the reading public. The diligence with which his correspondence was pursued, bears witness to the strength of his domestic attachments, as it is principally addressed to the members of his family. His fortitude and consideration are manifested in the infrequency of his allusions to the state of suffering and danger, in which he had so often occasion to write.

With his first serious illness in Upper Egypt, he turned his thoughts to the land of his birth, and the completion of his testamentary provision for the



benefit of his native city. The object of his bequest, as set forth in his will, is "the maintenance and support of public lectures, to be delivered in Boston, upon philosophy, natural history, the arts and sciences, or any of them, as the trustee shall, from time to time, deem expedient for the promotion of the moral, and intellectual, and physical instruction or education of the citizens of Boston." After a partial recovery from a severe attack of disease, from which he suffered for five weeks, — in a codicil to his will written amidst the ruins of Thebes, from a place called Luxor, an Arab village, the whole of which is situated on the remains of an ancient palace, — Mr. Lowell transmits to his kinsman and trustee his detailed directions for the administration of his trust. Of these, the most important are expressed as follows: —

"As the most certain and the most important part of true philosophy appears to me to be that, which shows the connection between God's revelations and the knowledge of good and evil implanted by him in our nature, I wish a course of lectures to be given on natural religion, showing its conformity to that of our Saviour.

"For the more perfect demonstration of the truth of those moral and religious precepts, by which alone, as I believe, men can be secure of happiness in this world and that to come, I wish a course of lectures to be delivered on the historical and internal evidences in favor of Christianity. I wish all disputed points of faith and ceremony to be avoided, and the

attention of the lecturers to be directed to the moral doctrines of the gospel, stating their opinion, if they will, but not engaging in controversy, even on the subject of the penalty for disobedience.

“As the prosperity of my native land, New England, which is sterile and unproductive, must depend hereafter, as it has heretofore depended, first, on the moral qualities, and, second, on the intelligence and information of its inhabitants, I am desirous of trying to contribute towards this second object also ; — and I wish courses of lectures to be established on physics and chemistry, with their application to the arts ; also, on botany, zoölogy, geology, and mineralogy, connected with their particular utility to man.

“After the establishment of these courses of lectures, should disposable funds remain, or, in process of time, be accumulated, the trustee may appoint courses of lectures to be delivered on the literature and eloquence of our language, and even on those of foreign nations, if he see fit. He may, also, from time to time, establish lectures on any subject that, in his opinion, the wants and taste of the age may demand.”

“As infidel opinions appear to me injurious to society, and easily to insinuate themselves into a man’s dissertations on any subject, however remote from religion, no man ought to be appointed a lecturer, who is not willing to declare, and who does not previously declare, his belief in the divine revelation of the Old and New Testaments,

leaving the interpretation thereof to his own conscience."

Such were the enlightened provisions of Mr. Lowell for the benefit of his native city. Surrounded by the most enduring monuments of human grandeur, he felt how little can be done to elevate the moral nature of man, by exhausting the quarry and piling its blocks of granite to the clouds. As far as we can judge from the unparalleled number and gigantic dimensions of the temples, palaces, gateways, alleys of sphinxes, and cemeteries, that cover the site, and fill up the environs of Egyptian Thebes, the resources of the monarchs, who made it their residence, must have exceeded those of the Roman Cæsars, when the world obeyed their sceptre. But when we inquire after the influence of this mighty monarchy on the welfare of the human race; when we ask for the lights of humanity that adorned its annals,—for the teachers of truth, the discoverers in science, the champions of virtue, the statesmen, the legislators, the friends of man,—it is all a dreary blank. Not one bright name is preserved in their history; not one great or generous deed, if ever performed, has escaped from oblivion; not a word, ever uttered or written by the myriads of rational beings, the lords or the subjects of this mighty empire, has been embalmed in the memory of mankind. A beam of light from the genius of a modern French scholar, cast upon the sculptured sides of obelisks and temples, has redeemed the names and titles of forgotten Pharaohs from ages of oblivion; but no moral Champollion can pour a

transforming ray into the essential character of the Egyptian monarchy, and make it aught else than one unbroken record of superstition, ignorance, and slavery.

Our lamented fellow-citizen, well versed in the history of ancient times, musing amidst the ruins of this unconsecrated magnificence, seems, with a yearning heart, while the hand of disease still lay upon him, to have desired, as far as an individual could effect it, to secure his beloved native land from the blighting influence of those causes, which preyed upon the vitals of this primal seat of empire. These causes were well known to him, — known from history, — known from their existence at the present hour, in the same wretched region. There was no free cultivation of intellect in Egypt, — no popular education, — no public liberty. The resources of the monarchy were lavished on the wars and luxury of its princes. The soul-crushing despotism of mystery checked all development of the common mind. In consequence of the slavery of *caste*, religion — instead of being a source of light, of social improvement, and happiness — was an additional instrument of subjection. It chiefly employed its energies in the disgusting art of preventing the clay that perishes from returning to its kindred dust. Nor was this the worst. The priesthood made themselves the exclusive depositaries of learning. If we can trust the accounts of the ancient writers, the import of those hieroglyphical characters in which the Egyptian wisdom is recorded, was a mystery known only to the priests, and

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those to whom, in their secluded cells, they chose to confide it. Well might it have been expected that the knowledge of it would perish. It had no root in the intelligence of the people ; it was the secret of a caste, and it died out with the privileged order by which it was engrossed. The pyramids themselves could not crumble, — the sculptured granite, in that mild climate, could not lose its deeply-graven character ; — but, instead of handing down an intelligent record of the monarchs who reared their mountain masses, and now slumber in their monumental caverns, they stand but as eternal mementoes how perishable is all glory, how fleeting is all duration, but that of the improved mind.

The few sentences penned, with a tired hand, by our fellow-citizen, on the top of a palace of the Pharaohs, will do more for human improvement, than, for aught that appears, was done by all of that gloomy dynasty that ever reigned. I scruple not to affirm, that, in the directions given by him for a course of popular instruction, — illustrative of the great truths of natural religion and the evidences of Christianity, and unfolding the stores of natural science and useful knowledge, — to be dispensed without restriction to an entire community, — there is a better hope that mental activity will be profitably kindled, thought put in salutary motion, the connection of truth with the uses of life traced out, and the condition of man benefited, than in all the councils, rescripts, exploits, and institutions of Sesostris and his line. I am persuaded that more useful knowledge, higher views of the works of

God, deeper and more searching glimpses into the mysteries of nature, — will be communicated in the course of lectures which will commence next Friday, than lies hidden in the hieroglyphics that cover the Egyptian temples, from the cataracts to the mouth of the Nile, although every character, according to M. Arago's suggestion, should be copied by the Daguerreotype, and fully explained by the key of Champollion. Let the foundation of Mr. Lowell stand on the principles prescribed by him; let the fidelity with which it is now administered continue to direct it; and no language is emphatic enough to do full justice to its importance. It will be, from generation to generation, a perennial source of public good, — a dispensation of sound science, of useful knowledge, of truth in its most important associations with the destiny of man. These are blessings which cannot die. They will abide, when the sands of the desert shall have covered what they have hitherto spared of the Egyptian temples; and they will render the name of Lowell, in all wise and moral estimation, more truly illustrious, than that of any Pharaoh engraven on their walls. These belong to the empire of the mind, which alone, of human things, is immortal, and they will remain as a memorial of his Christian liberality, when all that is material shall have vanished as a scroll.

## NOTE TO PAGE 10.

SINCE the manuscript of the foregoing Memoir was sent to the press, the sudden and lamented decease of Mr. JOHN LOWELL has removed the reasons of delicacy which prevented his being prominently mentioned among those of his family who deserve a high rank among our public benefactors. It would not be easy to name an individual, in the last generation, who, either in public or private life, has made himself as extensively felt in the community as Mr. Lowell, and this by the unaided force of personal influence.

He entered upon the practice of the law before he attained his majority, and, rising rapidly to the highest rank in the profession, measured himself, while yet a young man, with those who stood at its head in Massachusetts. Exhausted in a few years by the labors of his profession, and by the action of a fervent mind upon a susceptible frame, he was compelled, at the age of thirty-five, to abandon the pursuit, in which he had already acquired fame and fortune, and to seek the restoration of his health in a foreign voyage. His letters from Europe, published in the Monthly Anthology, display the extent and accuracy of his observation, and the vigor of his style.

After three years spent in Europe, he returned to America, and passed the residue of his life as a private citizen, without resuming his professional pursuits, or accepting any public office. He took, however, an

active part in the political controversies of the day, and exercised a powerful influence over public opinion. Those party divisions which had their origin in the French revolution, and the various questions touching the foreign relations of the country that grew out of it, were then at their height. Mr. Lowell entered with earnestness into the discussion of these questions in the public journals, and, after the decease of Mr. Ames, in 1808, possessed a greater ascendancy than any other person in New England, over the minds of those who were opposed to the national administration. He was, however, as a political writer, not more intrepid and uncompromising than he was fair and honorable. He probably enjoyed as much of the respect of his opponents, as it was possible to award to one whose opinions were conceived and expressed with equal firmness and ardor. It was universally known, that no desire for the honors or emoluments of office moved his pen; that he neither sought, nor could be induced to accept, any public station whatever. Those who differed from him in opinion, did justice to the honesty of his purpose, and the purity of his personal character.

No one witnessed with greater satisfaction than Mr. Lowell, the subsidence of party spirit, which took place in this country in consequence of the general pacification in Europe and America in 1815. From this time forward, during the quarter of a century which has since elapsed, it is believed that he took no part in the discussion of the various topics of political interest, which successively presented themselves, and which have recently formed the basis of a new organization of parties. Dividing the year between his residence in Boston and his farm in Roxbury, he gave himself, both



in town and country, to the pursuits of private life, and especially to horticulture and agriculture, (which he thoroughly understood, both in theory and practice,) and to the promotion of the various public, literary, and charitable institutions. He was, for many years, a most influential member of the Corporation of Harvard University, (a place now filled, in the third generation, by his son, Mr. John Amory Lowell, the sole trustee of the Lowell Institute;) he was among the most active and efficient promoters of the establishment of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and of the Provident Institution for Savings in the City of Boston; he took the lead, about twenty years ago, in the measures adopted for increasing the usefulness of the Boston Athenæum; and was, for several years, the most prominent member, and the president of the board of trustees, of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society. In whatever he engaged, he brought to it his whole heart; and wherever his services were given, it was—not by assumption, but by the necessity of his nature, the energy of his character, and the willing deference of others—as a leader. The great secret of his influence was his entire and unsuspected disinterestedness.

But it was only in social intercourse, and the relations of private and domestic life, that the beauty and worth of Mr. Lowell's character were fully displayed. He was animated by the loftiest sense of personal honor; his heart was the home of the kindest feelings; and, without a shade of selfishness, he considered wealth to be no otherwise valuable, but as a powerful instrument of doing good. His liberality went to the extent of his means; and where they stopped, he exercised an almost unlimited control over the means of others. It was

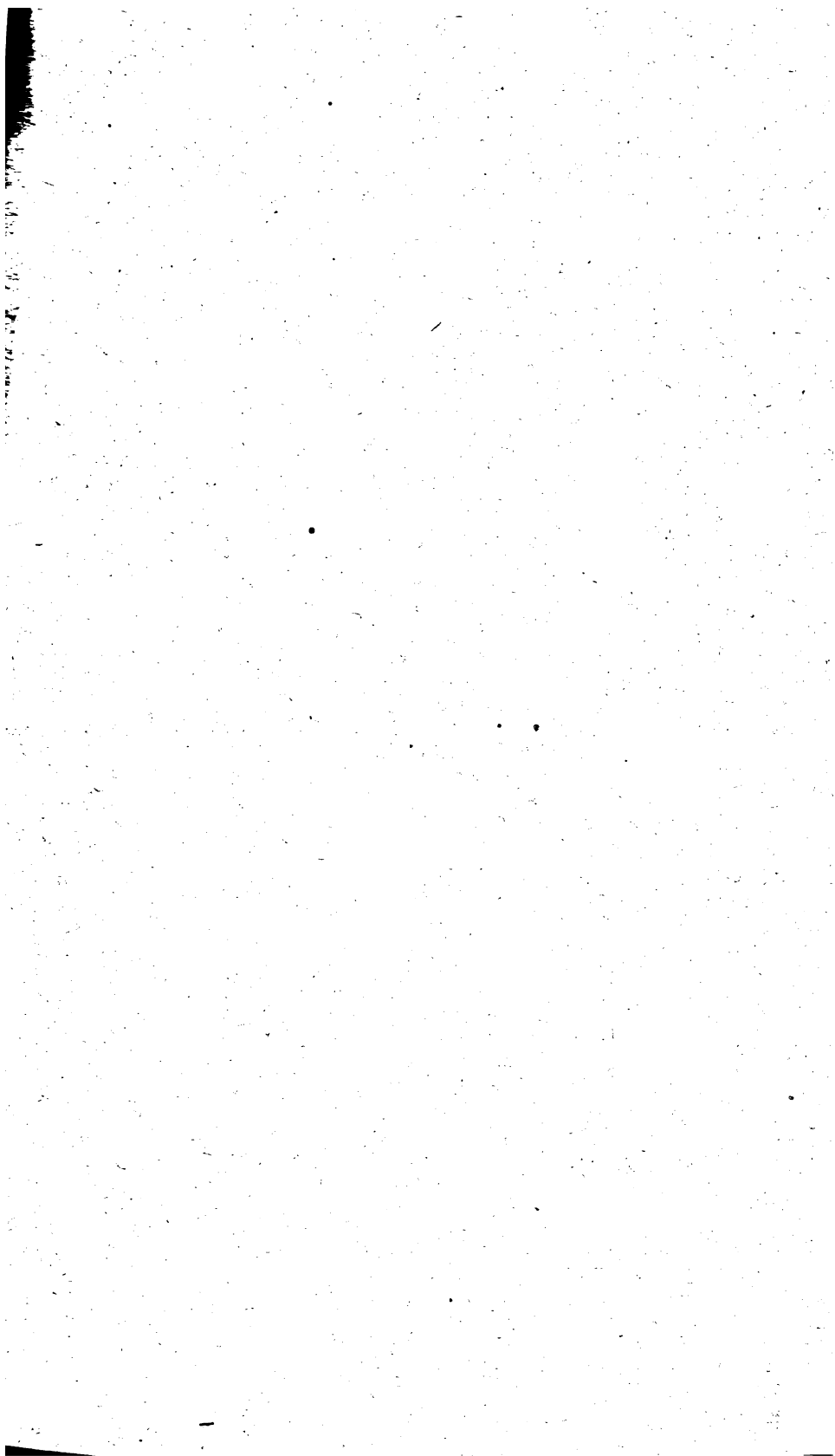
difficult to resist the contagion of his enthusiasm; for it was the enthusiasm of a strong, cultivated, and practical mind. He possessed colloquial powers of the highest order, and a flow of unstudied eloquence never surpassed, and rarely, as with him, united with the command of an accurate, elegant, and logical pen. It was impossible for him to enter into a social circle, however intelligent, which he was not able, unconsciously and without forethought, to hold in willing attention, by the charms of his conversation. He had a deep sense of the truths and hopes of the Christian faith, and never alluded to them, nor countenanced an allusion, but with that gravity and seriousness which belong to the highest interest of man.

The declining state of his health led him, within the last few years, to withdraw himself almost wholly from society. He passed a winter, two years ago, in the West Indies, highly enjoying the genial climate, studying with delight the boundless profusion of the tropical Flora, but with no substantial improvement of his health. On the 11th of the present month, (March, 1840,) he died at his fireside in Boston, suddenly, and without pain, at the age of seventy years.

The last time I saw him was at the delivery of the preceding discourse, on the evening of the 2d of January. He was pleased then to express his kind approval of my humble effort to do justice to the munificent foundation of his nephew; and it is with deep sensibility that I now bring it to a close, with this feeble tribute to the memory of one of the earliest, kindest, and most respected of the friends of my youth.



















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